

Get out and about on public lands

New Recreation Guide now available

The South Florida Water Management District invites you to “come out and play” on public lands. Hike, fish, camp, hunt, study nature, ride horses or bicycles, or just relax – what’s your pleasure?

We’ve wrapped up recreational opportunities in a neatly packaged guide book for your use. Locator maps, simple how-to-get-there directions and charts

showing offered activities are included. Some managed lands have a rich cultural history, others offer unique outdoor adventures. You’ll learn it all from this handy guide. The book also serves as a primer for plant identification and wildlife observation.

Recreational use of public lands is rooted in the 1981 Florida Resource Rivers Act, more commonly known as “Save Our Rivers.” This enabled water management districts to begin major land acquisition programs to secure and protect vital water resource lands for the benefit of existing and future generations.

Today, the South Florida Water Management District is the steward for around 375,000 acres under the Save Our Rivers program. We continue to cooperate with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities and the private sector to develop recreational access sites and facilities. Over the years we’ve taken great strides to expand public use opportunities – and it just keeps getting better.

Catfish Creek, Boney Marsh, Queen’s Island and Frog Pond – these are some of



the many sites that await your visit. Get your recreational guide today by calling (800) 432-2045. Ext. 6635 or email Izell Wilson at iwilson@sfwmd.gov. Then get busy and plan your activity.

CREDITS

WaterMatters is produced by the South Florida Water Management District’s Department of Public Information to inform the public about District projects and programs. An internet version is also available in English and Spanish at www.sfwmd.gov

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts.

Our mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

E-mail or call us with your comments and mailing list requests:

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Question selected from District letters and emails received from the public.

Q. I keep hearing about the importance of “reusing” water to help stretch our limited supplies, but I’m concerned about health-related issues. Is it really safe?

A. I live in a wetland that’s being restored with reclaimed water, and I’m perfectly healthy! You may be surprised to learn that more than 110 “reuse” facilities in the South Florida Water Management District (430 statewide) have been successfully operating in our state for quite some time. These facilities reuse about 220 million gallons per day. And, you can rest assured that all of this reclaimed water goes through extensive treatment and disinfection to ensure that public health and environmental quality are always protected. For public access irrigation systems, the state requires continuous monitoring of the reclaimed water to ensure this water poses no threat to public health.

Reclaimed water can be safely used for many purposes including: irrigation of golf courses, parks, highway medians, residential lots and other landscaped areas; irrigation of agricultural crops and nurseries; wetlands restoration and enhancement; and recharging of groundwater supplies.

For more information on water reuse and other important water-saving initiatives, call (800) 432-2045, Ext. 2064 or email your request to ilopez@sfwmd.gov for a free copy of our new Water Conservation Programs brochure.

Winner's Circle

Harris Rosen

Cultural Diversity Award



The South Florida Water Management District received the 2005 Harris Rosen Award for Cultural Diversity from Onyx magazine. The statewide award is given to those companies that have shown strong evidence of diversity in the workplace and have made a special effort to work closely with community concerns and projects. “This award is indicative of the efforts made by District project managers, hiring managers and our procurement department,” said Deputy Executive Director of Government and Public Affairs Alvin B. Jackson Jr.

Everglades Progress

Acceler8 public meetings in high gear

We’ve put the pedal to the metal to encourage public input and participation on *Acceler8*. Working with our federal partners, *Acceler8* is an initiative to step up the pace to complete eight major restoration projects by 2011, more than a decade ahead of schedule.

The program’s progress continues with an accelerated series of stakeholder and public meetings for each of the *Acceler8* project components at the “basis of design report” phase. The purpose of the report is to define the goals, objectives and design criteria that will be used for the engineering design of the project. The District posts the basis of design reports on www.evergladesnow.org for stakeholder and public review, then hosts meetings to gather comments and receive input at this early critical stage in the design process. The District will also host a second series of meetings at the 30 percent design phase to again capture stakeholder and public comment.

To date, two public meetings have been held for the basis of design report phase – C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Storage Reservoir and the Stormwater Treatment Area 2-Cell 4 portion of the Everglades Agricultural Area STA Expansion project. The remaining *Acceler8* component public meetings are scheduled monthly throughout the rest of year.

For a schedule of upcoming meeting dates and locations, call Rhonda Haag at (800) 432-2045, Ext. 2088 or email rhaag@sfwmd.gov.

Find out more
by visiting

ACCELER8
evergladesnow.org



ANSWER TO FIND FREDDY

Freddy is visiting the St. Lucie Lock and Dam in Martin County – about a 10-minute drive from Stuart. Also known as the S-80 structure, this navigation lock and spillway is located on the St. Lucie Canal, which connects Lake Okeechobee with the Indian River Lagoon and Florida’s east coast.

One of five locks along the Okeechobee Waterway built and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, boaters can travel across the entire state from one coast to the other.

The flood control spillway helps regulate water levels and flows in the canal. Releases from Lake Okeechobee, along with stormwater runoff from the local drainage basin, are discharged through this structure.



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